PANDOSTO,

THE TRIVMPH OF TIME.

WHEREIN IS DISCOVERED BY A PLEASANT HISTORIE, THAT ALthough by the meanes of Siniſter Fortune, Truth may be concealed, yet by TIME in ſpite of Fortune it is moſt manifeſtly reuealed.

Pleaſant for age to auoide drowſie thoughts, profitable for youth, to eſchue other wanton paſtimes; and bringing to both a deſired Content.

Temporis filia, veritas.

By ROBERT GREENE, Maſter of Arts in Cambridge,

Omne tulit punctum qui miſcuit vtile dulci.



LONDON
Printed by *William Stansby*, for *George Potter*, dwelling at the ſigne of the Bible, neere vnto the great North doore [illegible] 1607.

TO THE GENTLEMEN READERS, *HEALTH.*

THe paultry Poet APHRANIVS being blamed for troubling the Emperour TRAIAN with so many doting Poems: aduentured notwithstanding, still to present him with rude and homely verses, excusing himselfe with the courtesie of the Emperour, which did as friendly accept, as hee fondly offred. So Gentlemen, if any condemne my rashnesse for troubling your eares with so many vnlearned Pamphlets, I will straight shroud my selfe vnder the shadow of your curtesies, and with *Aphranius*, lay the blame on you, as well for friendly reading them, as on my selfe for fondly penning them. Hoping, though, fond, curious, or rather currish back-byters breathe out slanderous speeches: yet the curteous Readers (whom I feare to offend) will requite my trauell, at the least with silence: and in this hope, I rest: wishing you health and happinesse.

Robert Greene.

TO THE RIGHT HONO-
rable *George Clifford* Earle of Cumberland, *Robert Greene* wisheth increase of honour and vertue.



He Rascians (right Honourable) when by long gazing against the Sunne, they become halfe blinde, recouer their sights by looking on the blacke Load stone: Vnicornes being glutted with brousing on roots of Lycoras, sharpen their stomacks, with crushing bitter grasse.

Alexander *vouchsafed as well to smile at the crooked picture of* Vulcan, *as to wonder at the curious counterfeit of* Venus. *The mind is sometimes delighted as much with small trifles, as with sumptuous triumphes, and as well pleased with hearing of* Pans *homely fancies, as of Hercules renowned labours.*

Silly Baucis *could not serue* Iupiter *in a siluer plate, but in a woodden dish. All that honour* Esculapius, *decke not his shrine with Iewels.* Apollo *giues Oracles, as well to the poore man for his mite, as to the rich man for his treasure. The stone Echites is not so much liked for the colour, as for vertue: and gifts are not to bee measured by the worth, but by the will.* Mison *that vnskillfull painter of Greece, aduentured to giue vnto* Darius *the shield of* Pallas, *so roughly shadowed as hee smiled*

more at the folly of the man, then at the imperfection of his Art. So I present vnto your Honour The Triumph of time, *so rudely finished, as I feare your Honour will rather frowne at my impucency, then laugh at my ignorance: But I hope my willing minde shall excuse my slender skill, and your Honours courtesie shadow my rashnesse.*

They which feare the biting of vipers, do carry in their hands the plumes of a Phœnix. Phydias *drew* Vulcan *sitting in a chayre of Iuory.* Cæsars *Crow durst neuer cry,* Aue, *but when she was pearked on the Capitoll. And I seeke to shroud this imperfect Pamphlet vnder your Honours Patronage, doubting the dint of such inuenomed vipers, as seeke with their slanderous reproches to carpe at all, being oftentimes most vnlearned of all: and assure my selfe, that your honours renowned valour, and vertuous disposition, shall bee sufficient defence to protect mee from the poysoned tongues of such scorning Sycophants; hoping that as* Iupiter *vouchsafed to lodge in* Philemons *thatched Cottage, and* Philip *of* Macedon, *to take a bunch of grapes of a Country Peasant: so I hope your Honour measuring my worke by my will, and weighing more the mind, then the matter, will (when you haue cast a glaunce at this toy) with* Minerua, *vnder your golden Target couer a deformed Owle. And in this hope I rest wishing vnto you and the vertuous Countesse your wife, such happy successe as your Honours can desire or imagine.*

Your Lordships most dutifull

to commaund,

Robert Greene.

THE HISTORIE OF DORASTVS AND FAWNIA.

AMongſt all the paſſions wherewith humane mindes are perplexed, there is none that ſo galleth with reſtleſſe deſpight, as that infectious ſore of Ielouſie: for all other griefes are either to bee appeaſed with ſenſible perſwaſions, to bee cured with wholſome counſell, to bee releeued in want, or by tract of time to bee worne out, iealouſie onely excepted, which is sauced with ſuſpitious doubts, and pinching miſtruſt, that who ſo ſeeke by friendly counſell to raſe out this helliſh paſſion, it foorthwith ſuſpecteth that hee giueth this aduice to couer his owne guiltineſſe. Yea who ſo is pinched with this reſtles torment, doubteth all, diſtruſteth himſelfe, is alwaies frozen with feare, and fired with ſuſpition, hauing that wherein conſiſteth all his ioy, to be the breeder of his miſery. Yea it is ſuch an heauie enemie to that holy eſtate of matrimony ſowing betweene the maried couples ſuch deadly ſeedes of ſecret hatred, as loue being once raſed out by ſpiteſull diſtruſt, there oft enſueth bloudy reuenge, as this enſuing hiſtory manifeſtly proueth: wherein Pandoſto (furiouſly incenſed by a cauſleſſe iealouſie) procured the death of his moſt louing and loyall wife, and his owne endleſſe ſorrow and miſery.

In the country of Bohemia, there reigned a King called Pandoſto, whoſe fortunate ſucceſſe in warres againſt his foes, and bountifull curteſie towards his friendes in peace, made him to bee greatly feared and loued of all men. This Pandoſto had to wife a Ladie called Bellaria, by birth royall, learned by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous: ſo that it was hard to iudge, whether her beauty, Fortune, or vertue, wan the

greateſt commendations. Theſe two linked together in perfect loue, led their liues with ſuch fortunate content, that their ſubiects greatly reioyced to ſee their quiet diſpoſition. They had not bin married long, but fortune (willing to increaſe their happineſſe) lent them a Sonne, ſo adorned with the gifts of nature, as the perfection of the Childe greatly augmented the loue of the Parents, and the ioy of their Commons: in ſomuch that the Bohemians to ſhew their inward ioyes by outward actions, made Bonefiers and triumphs throughout all the Kingdome, appointing Iuſts and Turneys for the honour of their young Prince: whither reſorted not onely his Nobles, but alſo diuers Kings and Princes which were his Neighbours, willing to ſhew their friendſhip they ought to Pandoſto, and to winne fame and glory by their proweſſe and valour. Pandoſto whoſe minde was fraught with Princely liberality, entertained the Kinges, Princes and Noblemen with ſuch ſubmiſſe curteſie, and magnificall bounty, that they all ſaw how willing hee was to gratifie their good wils, making a generall feaſt for his ſubiects, which continued by the ſpace of twenty dayes; al which time the Iuſts and Turneys were kept to the great content both of the Lords and Ladies there preſent. This ſolemne triumph being once ended, the aſſembly taking their leaue of Pandoſto and Bellaria, the young ſonne (who was called Garinter) was nurſed vp in the houſe, to the great ioy and content of the Parents. Fortune enuious of ſuch happy ſucceſſe, willing to ſhew ſome ſigne of her inconſtancy, turned her wheele, and darkned their bright ſun of proſperity with the miſty clouds of miſhap and miſery. For it ſo happened that Egiſtus king of Sycilia, who in his youth had bene brought vp with Pandoſto, deſirous to ſhew that neither tract of time nor diſtance of place could diminiſh their former friendſhip, prouided a Nauy of ſhips and ſailed into Bohemia, to viſit his old friend and companion: who hearing of his ariuall, went himſelfe in perſon and his wife Bellaria, accompanied with a great traine of Lords and Ladies, to mæt Egiſtus: and eſpying him alighted from his horſe, embraced him very louingly, proteſting, that nothing in the world could haue hapned more acceptable to him then his comming, wiſhing his wife to welcome his olde friend and acquaintaince: who (to ſhew how ſhee liked

him whome her husband loued) entertayned him with such familiar curtesie, as Egistus perceiued himselfe to bée very well welcome. After they had thus saluted and embraced each other, they mounted againe on horse-back, and rode toward the City, deuising and recounting, how béeing children they had passed their youth in friendly pastimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egistus was receiued with triumphes and shewes, in such sorte, that hée marueiled how on so small a warning, they could make such preparation. Passing the Stréets thus with such rare sights, they rode on to the Pallace: where Pandosto entertayned Egistus and his Sycilians with such banqueting and sumptuous cheare, so royally, as they had all cause to commend his Princely liberalitie: yea, the very baseſt slaue that was knowne to come from Sycilia was vsed with such curtesie, that Egistus might easily perceiue, how both hée and his were honoured for his friends sake. Bellaria (who in her time was the flower of courtesie) willing to shew how vnfainedly she loued her husband, by his friends entertainment, vsed him likewise so familiarly, that her countenance bewrayed how her minde was affected towards him: oftentimes comming her selfe into his bedchamber, to sée that nothing should be amis to mislike him. This honeſt familiarity increased daily more and more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egistus a Princely and bountifull minde, adorned with sundry and excellent qualities, and Egistus finding in her a vertuous and courteous disposition, there grew such a secret vniting of their affections, that the one could not well be without the company of the other: insomuch that when Pandosto was busied with such vrgent affaires, that hee could not bée present with his friend Egistus, Bellaria would walke with him into the garden, and there they two in priuate pleasant deuises, would passe away their time to both their contents. This custome still continuing betwixt them, a certaine melancholy passion entring the minde of Pandosto droue him into sundry doubtfull thoughts. First, hee called to minde the beautie of his wife Bellaria, the comlineſse and bráuery of his friend Egistus, thinking that loue was aboue all Lawes, and therefore to bee staied with no law: that it was hard to put fire and flaxe together without burning, that their open pleasures might breede

his ſecret diſpleaſures, Hée conſidered with himſelfe, that Egiſtus was a man, & muſt néedes loue: that his wife was a woman, and therefore ſubiect to loue, and that where fancy forced, friendſhip was of no force. Theſe & ſuch like doubtfull thoughts a long time ſmothering in his ſtomacke, began at laſt to kindle in his minde a ſecret miſtruſt, which increaſed by ſuſpition, grew at laſt to flaming ielouſie, that ſo tormented him as hee could take no reſt. Hée then began to meaſure all their actions and miſconſtrue of their too priuate familiarity, iudging that it was not for honeſt affection, but for diſordinate fancy, ſo as hée began to watch them more narrowlie, to ſée if hée could get any true or certaine proofe to confirme his doubtful ſuſpition. While thus hée noted her lookes and geſtures, and ſuſpected their thoughts & meanings, they two ſilly ſoules, who doubted nothing of this his trecherous intent, frequented daily each others company: which draue him into ſuch a frantick paſſion, that hée began to beare a ſecret hate to Egiſtus, and a lowring countenance to Bellaria, who maruailing at ſuch vnaccuſtomed frownes began to caſt beyond the moone, & to enter into a 1000 ſundry thoughts, which way ſhe ſhould offend her huſband: but finding in her ſelfe a cleare conſcience, ceaſed to muſe, till ſuch time as ſhee might finde fit opportunitie to demaund the cauſe of his dumpes. In the meane time, Pandoſtoes minde was ſo far charged with ielouſie that hée no longer doubted, but was aſſured (as hée thought) that his friend Egiſtus had entred a wrong point in his tables, and ſo had plaid him falſe play. Whereupon deſirous to reuenge ſo great an iniury, hée thought beſt to diſſemble the grudg with a faire and friendly countenance: & ſo vnder the ſhape of a friend to ſhew him the trick of a foe. Deuiſing with himſelfe a long time, how hée might beſt put away Egiſtus, without ſuſpition of trecherous murther, concluded at laſt to poyſon him. Which opinion pleaſing his humor, hée became reſolute in his determination: and the better to bring the matter to paſſe, hée called to him his cup-bearer, with whome in ſecret hée brake the matter: promiſing him for the performance thereof, to giue him 1000 crownes of yeerely reuenues. His cup-bearer, either being of a good conſcience, or willing for fashions ſake to deny ſuch a bloudie requeſt, began with great reaſons to perſwade Pandoſto-

from his determinate miſchiefe: ſhewing him what an offence murther was to the gods, how much vnnatural actiõs did more diſpleaſe the heauens, then men; & that cauſeleſſe cruelty did ſildome or neuer eſcape without reuenge: he layd before his face, that Egiſtus was his friend, a King, & one that was come into his Kingdome; to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them; thathe had, and did ſhew him a moſt friendly countenance how Egiſtus was not onely honoured of his owne people by obedience, but alſo loued of the Bohemians for his curteſie. And that if he now ſhould, without any iuſt or manifeſt cauſe, poyſon him, it would not onely bee a great diſhonour to his Maieſty, and a meanes to ſow perpetuall enmity betwẽ the Sycilians and the Bohemians, but alſo his owne ſubiects would repine at ſuch trecherous cruelty. Theſe and ſuch like perſwaſions of Franion (for ſo was his Cup-bearer called) could no whit preuaile to diſſwade him from his dieuliſh enterpriſe: but remaining reſolute in his determination (his fury ſo fired with rage: as it could not bee appeaſed with reaſon) hée began with bitter taunts to take vp his man, and to lay before him two baites; preferment and death: ſaying that if he would poyſon Egiſtus, he would aduance him to high dignities: if hee refuſed to doe it of an obſtinate minde, no torture ſhould be too great to requite his diſobedience. Franion, ſéeing that to perſwade Pandoſto any more, was but to ſtriue againſt the ſtreame, conſented, as ſoone as opportunity would giue him leaue, to diſpatch Egiſtus: wherewith Pandoſto remained ſomewhat ſatiſfied, hoping now he ſhould be fully reuenged of ſuch miſtruſted iniuries, intending alſo as ſoone as Egiſtus was dead, to giue his wife a ſop of the ſame ſawce, & ſo be rid of thoſe which were the cauſe of his reſtleſſe ſorrow. While thus hee liued in this hope, Franion béeing ſecret in his chamber began to meditate with himſelfe in theſe termes.

AH Franion, treaſon is loued of many, but the Traitor hated of all: vniuſt offences may for a time eſcape without danger, but neuer without reuenge. Thou art ſeruant to a King, and muſt obey at command: yet Franion, againſt law and conſcience, it is not good to reſiſt a tyrant with armes, nor to pleaſe an vniuſt King with obedience. What ſhalt thou doe? Folly refuſed

gold, and frenzie preferment; wiſdome ſeeketh after dignity, and counſell loketh for gaine. Egiſtus is a ſtranger to thée, and Pandoſto thy Soueraigne: thou haſt little cauſe to reſpect the one, and oughteſt to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this Franion, that a pound of gold is worth a tunne of Lead, great gifts are little Gods: and preferment to a meane man is a whetſtone to courage: there is nothing ſwéeter then promotion, nor lighter then report: care not then though moſt count thée a traitor, ſo all call thée rich. Dignity (Franion) aduaunceth thy poſteritie, and euil report can but hurt thy ſelfe. Know this, where Eagles builde, Faulcons may prey: where Lyons haunt, Foxes may ſteale. Kinges are knowne to commaund, ſeruaunts are blameleſſe to conſent: feare not thou then to lift at Egiſtus, Pandoſto ſhall beare the burthen. Yea but Franion, conſcience is a worme that euer biteth, but neuer ceaſeth: that which is rubbed with the ſtone Galactites will neuer bee hot. Fleſh dipped in the Sea Ægeum, will neuer bée ſwéete: the hearbe Trigion, béeing once bit with an Aſpis, neuer groweth, and conſcience once ſtayned with innocent bloud, is alwayes tyed to a guilty remorſe. Prefer thy content before riches, and a cleare minde before dignity: ſo béeing poore, thou ſhalt haue rich peace, or els rich, thou ſhalt enioy diſquiet.

FRanion hauing muttered out theſe or ſuch like words, ſeeing either hee muſt die with a cleare minde, or liue with a ſpotted conſcience: hee was ſo cumbred with diuers cogitations that he could take no reſt: vntill at laſt he determined to breake the matter to Egiſtus: but fearing that the King ſhould eyther ſuſpect or heare of ſuch matters, hee concealed the deuice till opportunitie would permit him to reueale it. Lingring thus in doubtfull feare, in an euening hee went to Egiſtus lodging, and deſirous to breake with him of certaine affaires that touched the Kinge, after all were commaunded out of the Chamber, Franion made manifeſt the whole conſpiracie which Pandoſto had deuiſed againſt him, deſiring Egiſtus not to account him a Traytor for bewraying his Maiſters counſaile, but to thinke that he did it for conſcience: hoping that although his Maiſter inflamed with rage, or incenſed by ſome miſſer reportes or ſlanderous

ſpeaches, had imagined ſuch cauſeleſſe miſchiefe: yet when time ſhould pacifie his anger, and try thoſe talebearers but flattering Paraſites, then hée would count him as a faithfull Seruaunt that with ſuch care had kept his Maiſters credite. Egiſtus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his tale, but a quaking feare poſſeſſed all his limmes, thinking that there was ſome treaſon wrought, and that Franion did but ſhaddow his craft with theſe falſe colours: wherefore he began to ware in choler, and ſayd that hée doubted not Pandoſto, ſith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet béene any breach of amity: hée had not ſought to inuade his lands, to conſpire with his enemies, to diſſwade his Subiects from their allegeance: but in word and thought he reſted his at all times: he knew not therefore any cauſe, that ſhould mooue Pandoſto to ſéeke his death, but ſuſpected it to bée a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him at oddes. Franion ſtaying him in the middſt of his talke, told him, that to dally with Princes was with the ſwannes to ſing againſt their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any ſuch miſchiefe, it might haue béene better brought to paſſe then by reuealing the conſpiracie: therefore his Maieſtie did ill to miſconſtrue of his good meaning, ſith his intent was to hinder treaſon, not to become a traytor: and to confirme his promiſes, if it pleaſed his Maieſtie to fly into Sicilia for the ſafegarde of his life, hée would goe with him: and if then hée found not ſuch a practiſe to bée pretended, let his imagined trecherie bée repayed with moſt monſtrous tormentes. Egiſtus hearing the ſolemne proteſtation of Franion beganne to conſider, that in Loue and Kingdomes, neither faith, nor lawe is to bée reſpected: doubting that Pandoſto thought by his death to deſtroy his men, and with ſpeedy warre to inuade Sycilia: Theſe and ſuch doubtes throughly weyghed, hée gaue great thankes to Franion, promiſing if hée might with life returne to Syracuſa, that hée would create him a Duke in Sycilia: craning his Counſell how hée might eſcape out of the Countrie, Franion, who hauing ſome ſmall ſkill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Ports and hauens, and knew euery daunger in the Sea, ioyning in counſell with the Maiſter of Egiſtus Nauie, rigged all their

ships, & setting them a floate, let them lie at anchor, to be in the more readines, when time and winde should serue. Fortune although blind, yet by chaunce fauouring this iust cause, sent them within six dayes a good gale of winde: which Franion seing fit for their purpose, to put Pandosto out of suspition, the night before they should sayle, he went to him & promised, that the next day he would put the deuice in practise, for he had got such a forcible poison, as the very smel therof wold procure suddain death. Pandosto was ioyfull to heare this good newes, & thought euery houre a day, till he might be glutted with bloudy reuenge: but his suit had but ill successe, For Egistus fearing that delay might breed danger, and willing that the grasse should not be cut from vnder his feete, taking bagge and baggage by the helpe of Franion, conueied himselfe and his men out at a posterne gate of the Citty, so secretly, and spéedily, that without any suspition they got to the Sea shoare: where, with many a bitter curse taking their leaue of Bohemia, they went aboord weighing their Anchors, and hoisting sayle, they passed as fast as wind & sea would permit towards Sycilia: Egistus being a ioyfull man that he had safely past such treacherous perils. But as they were quietly floating on the sea, so Pandosto and his Cittizens were in an vproare; for séing that the Sycilians without taking their leaue, were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared some treason, & the King thought that without question his suspition was true, séeing the Cup-bearer had bewrayed the sum of his secret pretence. Whereupon hee began to imagine that Franion and his wife Bellaria had conspired with Egistus, and that the feruent affection shee bare him was the onely meanes of his secret departure: in so much that incensed with rage, hee commaunded that his wife should bee carried straight to prison, vntill they heard further of his pleasure. The Guarde vnwilling to lay their hands one such a vertuous Princesse, and yet fearing the Kings fury, went very sorrowfull to fulfill their charge: comming to the Queenes lodging, they found her playing with her yong sonne Garinter: vnto whom with teares doing the message, Bellaria astonished at such a hard censure, and finding her cléere conscience a sure aduocate to pleade in her cause, went to the prison most willingly: where with sighes and teares, shee

paſt away the time, till ſhée might come to her triall.

But Pandoſto whoſe reaſon was ſuppreſſed with rage, and whoſe vnbridled follie was increaſed with fury: ſéeing Franion had bewrayed his ſecrets, and that Egiſtus might well bee rayled on, but not reuenged: determined to wreake all his wrath on poore Bellaria. Hee therefore cauſed a generall proclamation to be made through all his Realme, that the Quéene & Egiſtus had by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed moſt inceſtuous adultery, but alſo had conſpired the Kings death: whereupon the Traitor Franion was fled away with Egiſtus, and Bellaria was moſt iuſtly impriſoned. This proclamation being once blazed through the country, although the vertuous diſpoſition of the Quéene did halfe diſcredit the contents, yet the ſuddaine & ſpéedy paſſage of Egiſtus, and the ſecret departure of Franion induced them (the circumſtances throughly conſidered) to thinke that both the proclamation was true, and the King greatly iniured: yet they pitied her caſe, as ſorrowful, that ſo good a Lady ſhould bée croſſed with ſuch aduerſe Fortune. But the King, whoſe reſtleſſe rage would admit no pitty, thought that although hée might ſufficiently requite his wiues falſhood with the bitter plague of pinching penury, yet his minde ſhould neuer be glutted with reuenge, till hée might haue fit time and opportunity to repay the trechery of Egiſtus with a fatall iniury. But a curſt Cow hath oftentimes ſhort hornes, and a willing minde but a weake arme. For Pandoſto although hée felt that reuenge was a ſpurre to warre, and that enuy alwayes proffereth ſtéele, yet hée ſaw, that Egiſtus was not onely of great puiſſance and prowéſſe to withſtand him, but had alſo many Kings of his alliance to ayde him, it néed ſhould ſerue: for he married the Emperours daughter of Ruſſia. Theſe and the like conſiderations ſomething daunted Pandoſto his courage, ſo that hee was content rather to put vp a manifeſt iniury with peace, then hunt after reuenge, diſhonor, and loſſe: determining ſince Egiſtus had eſcaped ſcot-frée, that Bellaria ſhoul pay for all at an vnreaſonable price.

Remayning thus reſolute in his determination, Bellaria continuing ſtill in priſon, and hearing the contents of the Proclamation, knowing that her minde was neuer touched with

ſuch

ſuch affection, nor that Egiſtus had euer offered her ſuch diſcurteſie, would gladly haue come to her anſwere, that both ſhee might haue knowne her iuſt accuſers, and cleared her ſelfe of that guiltleſſe crime.

But Pandoſto was ſo inflamed with rage, and infected with Ielouſie, as hée would not vouchſafe to heare her, nor admit any iuſt excuſe: ſo that ſhée was faine to make a vertue of her néede, and with patience to beare theſe heauie iniuries. As thus ſhée lay croſſed with calamities (a great cauſe to increaſe her griefe) ſhe found her ſelfe quicke with childe: which as ſoone as ſhe felt ſtirre in her body, ſhe burſt forth into bittes teares, exclayming againſt fortune in theſe termes.

ALas Bellaria, how infortunate art thou, becauſe fortunate: Better thou hadſt béene borne a beggar, then a Prince, ſo ſhouldeſt thou haue bridled Fortune with want, where now ſhée ſporteth her ſelfe with thy plentie. Ah happy life, where poore thoughts, and meane deſires liue in ſecure content, not fearing Fortune becauſe to low. For Fortune, thou ſéeſt now Bellaria that care is a companion to honor, not to pouerty: that high Cedars are ſrushed with tempeſts, when low ſhrubs are not touched with the winde: pretious Diamonds are cut with the file, when deſpiſed peable lye ſafe in the ſand. Delphos is ſought to by Princes, not beggars: and Fortunes Altars ſmoke with kings preſents, not with poore mens gifts. Happie are ſuch Bellaria, that curſe Fortune for contempt, nor feare: and may wiſh they were, not ſorrow they haue béene. Thou art a Princeſſe Bellaria, and yet a priſoner: borne to the one by deſcent, aſſigned to the other by diſpite: accuſed without cauſe, and therefore oughteſt to dye without care; for patience is a ſhield againſt Fortune, and a guiltleſſe minde yéeldeth not to ſorrow. Ah but infamy galleth vnto death, and liueth after death: Report is plumed with times feathers, and Enuie often times ſoundeth Fames Trumpet: the ſuſpected adultery ſhall fly in the ayre, and thy knowne vertues ſhall ly hid in the Earth; one Moale ſtaineth a whole Face: and what is once ſpotted with Infamy can hardly bée worne out with time. Die then Bellaria, Bellaria die; for if the Gods ſhould ſay thou art guiltleſſe,

yet enuie would heare the Gods, but neuer beléeue the Gods. Ah hapleſſe wretch, ceaſe theſe tearmes: deſperate thoughts are fit for them that feare ſhame, not for ſuch as hope for credite. Pandoſto hath darkened thy fame, but ſhall neuer diſcredite thy vertues. Suſpition may enter a falſe action, but proſe ſhall neuer put in his plea: care not then for enuie, ſith report hath a bliſter on her tongue: and let ſorrow bite them which offend, not touch thée that art faultleſſe. But alas poore ſoule, how canſt thou but ſorrow? Thou art with childe, and by him that inſtéede of kind pitty, pincheth thée in cold priſon. And with that, ſuch gaſping ſighes ſo ſtopping her breath, that ſhée could not vtter any more wordes, but wringing her hands, and guſhing forth ſtreames of teares, ſhée paſſed away the time with bitter complaints.

The Jaylor pitying thoſe her heauie paſſions, thinking that if the King knew ſhe were with childe, he would somewhat appeaſe his fury and releaſe her from priſon, went in al haſt, and certified Pandoſto, what the effect of Bellarias complaint was: who no ſooner heard the Jaylor ſay ſhée was with childe, but as one poſſeſſed with a phrenzie, he roſe vp in a rage, ſwearing that ſhée, and the baſtard brat ſhe was withall ſhould die, if the Gods themſelus ſaid no: thinking that ſurely by computation of time, that Egiſtus & not he was Father to the childe. This ſuſpitious thought galled afreſh this halfe healed ſore, in ſo much as hee could take no reſt, vntill hée might mitigate his choler with a iuſt reuenge, which happened preſently after. For Bellaria was brought to bed of a faire & beautifull daughter: which no ſooner Pandoſto hearde, but he determined that both Bellaria and the young infant ſhould bée burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of the kings cruell ſentence, ſought by perſwaſions to diuert him from his bloudie determination: laying before his face the innocencie of the childe, and vertuous diſpoſition of his wife, how ſhée had continually loued and honoured him ſo tenderly, that without one proſe hée could not, nor ought not to appeach her of that crime. And if ſhe had faulted, yet it were more honourable to pardon with mercy, then to puniſh with extremity, and more kingly, to be commended of pitty, then accuſed of rigour. And as

for the childe, if hée ſhould puniſh it for the mothers offence, it were to ſtriue againſt nature and iuſtice: and that vnnaturall actions doe more offend the Gods, then men: how cauſeleſſe cruelty, nor innocent bloud neuer ſcapes without reuenge. Theſe and ſuch like reaſons could not appeaſe his rage, but hée reſted reſolute in this, that Bellaria béeing an Adultreſſe, the childe was a Baſtard, and hee would not ſuffer that ſuch an infamous brat ſhould call him Father. Yet at laſt (ſéeing his Noble men were importunate vpon him) hée was content to ſpare the childes life, and yet to put it to a worſe death. For he found out this deuice, that ſéeing (as he thought) it came by fortune, ſo he would commit it to the charge of Fortune, and therefore hée cauſed a little Cock-boat to be prouided, wherin he meant to put the babe, and then ſend it to the mercies of the Seas, and the deſtenies. From this his Péeres in no wiſe could perſwade him, but that he ſent preſently two of his guard to fetch the childe: who being come to the priſon, and with wéeping teares recounting their Maiſters meſſage: Bellaria no ſoner heard the rigorous reſolution of her mercileſſe huſband, but ſhée fell downe in a ſwound, ſo that all thought ſhée had bin dead: yet at laſt being come to her ſelfe, ſhée cryed and ſcréeched out in this wiſe.

ALas ſwéete infortunate babe, ſcarce borne before enuied by fortune, would the day of thy birth had béene the terme of thy life: then ſhouldeſt thou haue made an ende to care, and preuented thy Fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deſerue ſuch hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are too ſhort for ſo ſharp a doome, but thy vntimely death muſt pay thy Mothers Debts, and her guiltleſſe crime muſt bee thy gaſtly curſe. And ſhalt thou ſwéete Babe bée committed to Fortune, when thou art already ſpited by Fortune? Shall the Seas bée thy harbour, and the hard boate thy cradle? Shall thy tender Youth, in ſtéede of ſwéete kiſſes, bée nipped with bitter ſtormes? Shalt thou haue the whiſtling windes for thy Lullabie, and the ſalt Sea ſome in ſtéede of ſwéete Milke? Alas, what deſtinies would aſſigne ſuch hard hap? What Father would be ſo cruell? Or what Gods will not reuenge ſuch rigor? Let mé kiſſe thy lippes (ſwéete Infant) and wet thy tender cheekes with my teares, and put this chayne

about thy little necke: that if fortune ſaue thee, it may helpe to ſuccour thee. Thus, ſince thou muſt goe to ſurge in the gaſtfull Seas, with a ſorrowfull kiſſe I bid thée farewell, and I pray the Gods thou maiſt fare well. Such, and ſo great was her griefe, that her vitall ſpirits being ſuppreſſed with ſorrow, ſhe fell againe downe into a trance, hauing her ſences ſo ſotted with care, that after ſhe was reuiued, yet ſhee loſt her memorie, and lay for a great time without mouing, as one in a trance. The guard left her in this perplexity, and carried the child to the King: who quite deuoid of pitty, commaunded that without delay it ſhould be put into the boate, hauing neither ſaile nor rudder to guide it, and ſo to be caried into the middeſt of the Sea, and there left to the winde and waues, as the deſtinies pleaſe to appoint. The very ſhip-men, ſéeing the ſweete countenance of the yong babe, began to accuſe the King of rigour, and to pitty the childes hard fortune: but feare conſtrained them to that, which their nature did abhorre: ſo that they placed it in one of the ends of the Boate, and with a few greene bowes made a homely cabin to ſhrowde it, as they could from wind and weather. Hauing thus trimmed a Boate, they tied it to a ſhip, and ſo haled it into the maine Sea, and then cut in ſunder the corde: which they had no ſooner done, but there aroſe a mighty tempeſt which toſſed the little Boate ſo vehemently in the waues, that the Ship-men thought it could not continue long without ſinking: yea, the ſtorme grew ſo great, that with much labour and perill they got to the ſhore. But, leauing the child to her fortunes, againe to Pandoſto: who not yet glutted with ſufficient reuenge, deuiſed which way he ſhould beſt increaſe his wiues calamity. But firſt aſſembling his Nobles and Counſellers, hée called her (for the more reproach) into open Court: where it was obiected againſt her, that ſhe had committed adultery with Egiſtus, and conſpired with Franion to poyſon Pandoſto her husband. But their pretence being partly ſpied, ſhe counſelled them to flie away by night, for their better ſafety. Bellaria (who ſtanding like a priſoner at the barre, and feeling in her ſelfe a cléere conſcience to withſtand her falſe accuſers) ſéeing that no leſſe then death could pacifie her husbands wrath, waxed bold, and deſired that ſhée might haue Law

and Iustice (for mercy she neither craued nor hoped) and that those periured wretches, which had falsly accused her to the King, might be brought before her face, to giue in euidence. Pandosto (whose rage and Iealousie was such, as no reason, nor equitie could appease) told her, that for her accusers, they were of such credite, as their words were sufficient witnesse: and that the sodaine and secrete flight of Egistus and Franion, confirmed that which they had confessed: and as for her, it was her part to denie such a monstrous crime, and to be impudent in forswearing the fact, since she had passed all shame in committing the fault: but her stale countenance should stand for no coyne: for, as the bastard which she bare was scrued, so she should with some cruell death be requited. Bellaria no whit dismaied with this rough replie, told her Husband Pandosto that he spake vpon choler, and not conscience: for her vertuous life had euer bene such as no spot of suspition could euer staine. And if she had borne a friendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friend, and not for any lusting affection: therefore if she were condemned without any further proofe, it was rigour, and not Law. The Noble men which sate in iudgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the King that the accusers might be openly examined, & sworne: if then the euidence were such, as the Jury might finde her guiltie (for seeing she was a Prince she ought to be tried by her Pares) then let her haue such punishment as the extremitie of the Law will assigne to such malefactors. The King presently made answere, that in this case he might, and would dispence with the Law: and that the Jurie being once panneled, they should take his word for sufficient euidence: otherwise he would make the proudest of them repent it. The Noble men seeing the King in choler, were all whist: but Bellaria whose life then hung in the ballance, fearing more perpetuall infamie, then momentanie death, told the King, if his fury might stand for a Law, that it were vaine to haue the Jury yeeld their verdict, & therefore she fell downe vpon her knees, and desired the King that for the loue he bare to his young Sonne Garinter, whom she brought into the world, that he would grant her a request, the which was this, that it would please his Maiesty to send for of

his Noble men whom he beſt truſted, to the Iſle of Delphos, there to enquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether ſhe had committed adultery with Egiſtus, or conſpired to poyſon him, with Franion; and if the God Apollo, who by his diuine eſſence knew all ſecrets, gaue anſwere that ſhe was guiltie, ſhe was content to ſuffer any torment, were it neuer ſo terrible. The requeſt was ſo reaſonable, that Pandoſto could not for ſhame denie it, vnleſſe he would be counted of all his ſubiects more wilfull then wiſe. He therefore agreed that with as much ſpéed as might be there ſhould be certaine Embaſſadours diſpatched to the Iſle of Delphos: and in the meane ſeaſon he commanded that his wife ſhould be kept in cloſe priſon. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull for her little babe that floated on the Seas, then ſorowfull for her owne miſhap. For of that ſhe doubted: of her ſelfe ſhe was aſſured: knowing if Apollo ſhould giue Oracle according to the thoughts of the heart, yet the ſentence ſhould go on her ſide; ſuch was the clérenelle of her minde in this caſe. But Pandoſto (whoſe ſuſpicious head ſtill remained in one ſong) choſe out ſixe of his Nobility, whom he knew were ſcarce indifferent men in the Queenes behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their iourney, ſent them to Delphos. They willing to fulfill the Kings command, and deſirous to ſee the ſituation and cuſtome of the Iland, diſpatched their affaires with as much ſpéede as might bee, and embarked themſelues to the voyage: which (the winde & weather ſeruing fit for their purpoſe) was ſoone ended. For within three weekes they arriued at Delphos: where they were no ſooner ſet on Land, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering ſacifice to the God, and giftes to the Prieſt, as the cuſtome was, they humbly craued an anſwere of their demaund. They had not long knéeled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voice ſaid: Bohemians, what ye finde behinde the Alter, take and depart. They forthwith obeying the Oracle, found a ſcroule of parchment wherein was written theſe words in letters of gold.

The Oracle.

Suſpition is no proofe: Iealouſie is an vnequall Iudge: *Bellaria* is chaſt: *Egiſtus* blameleſſe: *Franion* a true

ſubiect: *Pandoſto* treacherous: his babe an innocent, and the King ſhall die without an heire: if that which is loſt be not found.

AS ſoone as they had taken out this ſcroule, the Prieſt of the God commaunded thm, that they ſhould not preſume to reade it, before they came to the preſence of Pandoſto, vnleſſe they would incurre the diſpleaſure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lords carefully obeying his commaund, taking their leaue of the Prieſt, with great reuerence departed out of the Temple, and went to their Ships: and as ſoone as winde would permit them, ſayled towards Bohemia, where in ſhort time they ſafely arriued, and with great triumph iſſuing out of their Shippes went to the Kings Pallace, whom they found in his chamber accompanied with other Noble men. Pandoſto no ſoner ſaw them, but with a merrie countenance he welcomed them home, aſking what newes? They told his Maieſtie, that they had receiued anſwere of the God written in a ſcroule: but with this charge, that they ſhould not reade the contents before they came in the preſence of the King: and with that they deliuered him the parchment. But his Noble men entreated him, that ſith therein were contained eyther the ſafety of his wifes life and honeſtie, or her death and perpetual infamy, that he would haue his Nobles and Commons aſſembled in the iudgement Hall: where the Queene brought in as a priſoner, ſhould heare the contents. If ſhe were found guilty by the Oracle of the God, thē all ſhould haue cauſe to thinke his rigour proceeded of due deſert: if her Grace were found faultleſſe, then ſhe ſhould be cleered before all, ſith ſhe had bene accuſed openly. This pleaſed the King ſo, that he appointed the day, and aſſembled all the Lords and Commons, and cauſed the Queene to be brought in before the iudgement ſeate, commanding that the inditement ſhould bee read: wherein ſhe was accuſed of adultery with Egiſtus, and of conſpiracy with Franion. Bellaria hearing the contents, was no whit aſtoniſhed, but made this cheerefull anſwer.

IF the diuine powers be priuie to humane actions (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience ſhall make fortune bluſh

and my vnſpotted life ſhall ſtayne ſpitefull diſcredite. For although lying report hath ſought to appeach mine honour, and ſuſpicion hath intended to ſoyle credit with infamy: yet where vertue kæpeth the fort, report and ſuſpicion may aſſayle, but neuer ſacke. How I haue led my life before Egiſtus comming, I appele (Pandoſto) to the Gods, and to thy conſcience. What hath paſſed betweene him and mée, the Gods onely know, and I hope will preſently reueale. That I loued Egiſtus, I cannot denie: that I honoured him, I ſhame not to confeſſe. To the one I was forced by his vertues: to the other for his dignities. But as touching laſcinious luſt, I ſay Egiſtus is honeſt, and hope my ſelfe to be found without ſpot: for Franion, I can neither accuſe him, nor excuſe him: I was not priuie to his departure: and that this is true, which I haue here rehearſed, I referre my ſelfe vnto the diuine Oracle.

BEllaria had no ſooner ſaid, but the King commaunded that one of the Dukes ſhould reade the contents of the ſcroule, which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great ſhoute, reioycing and clapping their hands, that the Queene was cléere of that falſe accuſation: but the King, whoſe conſcience was a witneſſe againſt him of his witleſſe fury, and falſe ſuſpected Ielouſie, was ſo aſhamed of his raſh folly, that hee intreated his Nobles to perſwade Bellaria to forgiue, and forget theſe iniuries, promiſing not onely to ſhew himſelfe a loyall and louing husband, but alſo to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus and Franion: reuealing them before them all the cauſe of their ſecrete flight. and how trecherouſly he thought to haue practiſed his death, if the good minde of his cupbearer had not preuented his purpoſe. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was word brought him, that his young Sonne Garinter was ſodainly dead; which newes ſo ſoone as Bellaria heard, ſurcharged before with extréme ioy, and now ſuppreſſed with heauie ſorrow, her vitall ſpirits were ſtopped, that ſhe fell downe preſently dead, and could neuer be reuiued. This ſodaine ſight ſo appalled the Kings ſenſes, that he ſunke from his ſeate in a ſwoune, ſo as he was faine to bée carried by his Nobles to his Pallace, where he lay by the ſpace of three daies without ſpeech. His

Commons were as men in despaire, so diuersly distressed; there was nothing but mourning & lamentation to be heard throughout all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Quéne bereaued of her life, and their King and Soueraigne in great hazard: this tragicall discourse of Fortune so daunted them, as they went like shadowes not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauie hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recouered his speech: who as in fury brayed these bitter speeches.

O Miserable Pandosto, what furor witnesse then conscience? What thoughts more sowre then suspition? What plague more bad then Iealousie? Unnatural actions offended the Gods more then men: and causeless crueltie neuer scapes without reuenge. I haue committed such a bloudie fact, as repent I may: but recall I cannot. Ah Iealousie, a hell to the minde, and a horror to the conscience, suppressing reason, and inciting rage: a worse passion then phrensie, a greater plague then madnesse. Are the Gods iust? Then let them reuenge such brutish cruelty: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the Seas: my louing wife I haue slaine with slaunderous suspition: my Iustie friend, I haue sought to betray, and yet the Gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vniust Apollo, Pandosto is the man that hath committed the fault; why should Garinter, sely child, abide the paine? Wel sith the Gods meanie to prolong my daies to increase my dolour, I will offer my guilty bloud a sacrifice to those guiltlesse soules, whose liues are lost by rigorous folly. And with that he reached at a rapier to haue murthered himselfe: but his Peeres being present, stayed him from such a bloudy act: perswading him to think, that the Common wealth consisted on his safety, and that those that coulde not liue perish, that wanted a shepheard: wishing, that if he would not liue for himselfe, yet he should haue care of his Subiects, and to put such fancies out of his minde: sith in sores past helpe, salues do not heale, but hurt: and in things past cure, care is a corsiue. With these and such like perswasions the king was ouercome: and began somewhat to quiet his mind: so that so soone as he could goe abroade: hee caused his wife to be embalmed, and

wrapt in leade, with her young ſonne Garinter : erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein he entombed them both, making ſuch ſolemne obſequies at her Funerall, as all Bohemia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his forepaſſed folly: cauſing this Epitaph to be ingrauen on her Tombe, in letters of gold.

The Epitaph.

Here lies entombde Bellaria *faire,*
Falſly accuſed to be vnchaſt:
Cleered by Apollos *ſacred doome,*
Yet ſlaine by Iealouſie at laſt.

What ere thou bee that paſſeſt by,
Curſe him that cauſde this Queene to die.

THis Epitaph being ingrauen, Pandoſto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there with watry plaints bewaile his misfortune: coueting no other companion but ſorrow, nor no other harmonie, but repentance. But leauing him to his dolorous paſſions, at laſt let vs come to ſhew the tragicall diſcourſe of the young Infant.

VVHo being toſſed with winde, and waues, floated two whole daies without ſuccour, readie at euerie puffe to be drowned in the Sea: till at laſt the tempeſt ceaſed, and the little Boate was driuen with the tide into the coaſt of Sycilia: where ſticking vpon the Sands, it reſted. Fortune minding to be wanton (willing to ſhew that as ſhe hath wrincles on her browes: ſo ſhe hath dimples in her cheeks) thought after ſo many ſowre lookes, to lend a fained ſmile: and after a puffing ſtorme, to bring a pretty calme: ſhe beganne thus to dally. It fortuned a poore mercenary Shepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his liuing by other mens flockes, miſſed one of his ſheepe, and thinking it had ſtrayed into the couert that was hard by, ſought very diligently to find that which he could not ſee, fearing either that the Wolues or Eagles had vndone him (for he

was so poore, as a sheepe was halfe his substance) wandered downe towards the sea cliffes, to see if perchance the sheepe was browzing on the Sea Iuie, whereon they doe greatly feede. But not finding her there, as he was readie to returne to his flocke, hee heard a childe crie: but knowing there was no house neere, thought he had mistaken the sound, and that it was the bleating of his sheepe. Wherefore loking more narrowly, as he cast his eye to the Sea, he spied a little Boate: from whence (as he attentiuely listened) he might heare a crie to come. Standing a good while in a maze, at last he went to the shoare, & wading to the Boate, as he loked in, he saw a little babe lying all alone, ready to die for hunger and cold, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, richly embrothered with gold, and hauing a Chaine about the necke. The Shepheard, who before had neuer seene so faire a babe, nor so rich Iewels, thought assuredly, that it was some little God, and beganne with great deuotion to knocke on his breast. The babe, who writhed with the head to seeke for the pap, began againe to crie afresh: whereby the poore man knew that it was a child, which by some sinister meanes was driuen thither by distresse of weather: marualing how such a silly Infant, which by the Mantle, and the Chaine, could not but bee borne of Noble parẽtage, should be so hardly crossed with deadly mishap. The poore shepheard, perplexed thus with diuers thoughts, toke pittie of the Child, and determined with himselfe to carry it to the King, that there it might be brought vp, according to the worthinesse of birth: for his abilie could not affoorde to foster it, though his mind was willing to further it. Taking therefore the Childe in his armes, as he folded the Mantle together, the better to defend it from the cold, there fel down at his foote a veric faire and rich purse, wherin he found a great summe of gold: which sight so reuiued the shepheards spirits, as he was greatly rauished with ioy, and daunted with feare: ioyfull, to see such a summe in his power: fearefull, if it should be knowne, that it might breede his further danger. Necessity wisht him at the least, to retaine the gold, though he would not keepe the Childe: the simplicity of his conscience feared him from such deceitfull bribery. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull Dilemma, vntill at last the conteplatiue of the coine ouercame

him: for what will not the grædie deſire of gold cauſe a man to doe? So that he was reſolued in himſelfe to foſter the child, and with the ſumme to releeue his want. Reſting thus reſolute in this point, he left ſeeking his ſheepe, and as cauertly and ſecretly as he could, went a by-way to his houſe, leaſt any of his neighbours ſhould perceiue his carriage. Aſſoone as he was got home, entring in at the doore, the child began to crie. Which his wife hearing, and ſeeing her husband with a young babe in his armes, began to be ſomewhat iealous: yet marueiling that her husband ſhould be ſo wanton abroad, ſith he was ſo quiet at home. But as women are naturally giuen to beleeue the worſt, ſo his wife thinking it was ſome baſtard, began to crow againſt her good man: and taking vp a cudgell (for the moſt maſter went breechleſſe) ſware ſolemnly that ſhe would make clubs trumpe, if he brought any baſtards brat within her doores. The goodman ſeeing his wife in her maieſtie, with her Mace in her hand, thought it was time to bow for feare of blowes, and deſired her to be quiet, for there was no ſuch matter: but if ſhe could hold her peace, they were made for euer. And with that he told her the whole matter: how he had found the childe in a little Boate without any ſuccour, wrapped in that coſtly Mantle, and hauing that rich chaine about the necke: but at laſt when he ſhewed her the purſe full of gold, ſhe began to ſimper ſomething ſweetly. And taking her husband about the necke, kiſſed him after her homely faſhion: ſaying, that ſhe hoped God had ſeene their want, and now meant to releeue their pouerty, and ſeeing they could get no children, had ſent them this little Babe to be their heyre. Take heede in any caſe (ſaith the ſhepheard) that you be ſecret, and blabbe it not out when you meete with your Goſſips. For if you doe, we are like not onely to loſe the gold and Iewels, but our other goods and liues. Tuſh (quoth his wife) profite is a good Watch before the doore: Feare not, I haue other things to talke of, then this: but I pray you let vs lay vp the money ſurely, and the Iewels, leaſt by any miſhap it be eſpied. After that they had ſet all things in order, the Shepheard went to his ſheepe with a merry note, and the good wife learned to ſing Lullaby at home with her young babe, wrapping it in a homely blanket, inſtead of a rich mantle,

nourishing it so cleanly and carefully, as it began to bee a iolly Girle: insomuch that they began both of them to be very fond of it, and as it wared in age, so it increased in beautie. The shepheard euery night at his comming home, would sing and dance it on his knee, and prattle, that in a short time it began to speake and call him Dad, and her Mam. At last, when it grew to ripe yeares, that it was about seuen yeares olde, the Shepheard left képing of other mens shéepe, and with the money he found in the purse, had bought him the lease of a pretty Farme, and got a small flocke of sheepe: which when Fawnia (for so they named the child) came to the age of ten yeares, he set her to kéepe shéepe: and she with such diligence performed her charge, as the shéepe prospered maruellously vnder her hand. Fawnia thought Porrus had bene her Father, and Mopsa her Mother (for so was the shepheard and his wife called) and honoured and obeyed them with such reuerence, that al the neighbours praised the dutifull obedience of the Childe. Porrus grew in short time to be a man of some wealth and credite. For Fortune so fauoured him in hauing no charge but Fawnia, that he began to purchase Land, intending after his death to giue it to his Daughter: so that diuers rich Farmers Sonnes came as wooers to his house. For Fawnia was something cleanly attyred, being of such singuler beauty and excellent wit, that who so saw her, would haue thought she had béene some heauenly Nimph, and not a mortall creature. Insomuch that when she came to the age of sixteene yeares, she so increased with exquisite perfection both of bodie and minde, as her naturall disposition did bewray that she was borne of some high parentage. But the people thinking she was the daughter to the Shepheard Porrus, rested onely amazed at her beauty and wit. Yea she won such fauour and commendations in euery mans eye, as her beauty was not onely praised in the Countrey, but also spoken of in the Court. Yet such was her submisse modestie, that although her praise daily increased, her minde was no whit puffed vp with pride, but humbled her selfe as became a country maide, and the daughter of a poore shepheard. Euery day she went forth with her shéepe to the field, képing them with such care and diligence, as all men thought she was very pain-

full

full, defending her face from the heate of the Sun with no other vaile, but with a Garland made of Bowes & Flowers, Which attyre became her so gallantly, as she seemed to be the Goddesse Flora her selfe for beauty. Fortune, who all this while had shewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe, and to shew a lowring countenance: intending as she had giuen Fawnia a slender checke, so she would giue her a harder mate. To bring which to passe, she laid her traine on this wise: Egistus had but one onely Sonne called Dorastus, about the age of twentie yeares: a Prince so decked and adorned with the gifts of nature, so fraught with beautie and vertuous qualities, as not onely his Father ioyed to haue so good a sonne, but his commons reioyced that God had sent them such a noble Prince to succéede in the Kingdome. Egistus, placing all his ioy in the perfection of his Sonne, (séeing that he was now mariageable) sent Embassadours to the King of Denmarke, to intreat a marriage betwéene him and his Daughter. Who willingly consenting, made answere, that the next spring, if it pleased Egistus with his sonne to come into Denmarke, he doubted not, but they should agrée vpon reasonable conditions. Egistus resting satisfied with this friendly answere, thought conuenient in the meane time to breake it vnto his Sonne. Finding therefore on a day fit opportunity, he spake to him in these fatherly termes,

DOrastus, thy youth warneth mée to preuent the worst, and mine age to prouide the best. Opportunities neglected are signes of folly: actions measured by time, are seldome bitten with repentance: thou art young, and I olde: age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot yet conceiue.

I therefore will counsell thée as a Father, hoping thou wilt obey as a Childe. Thou seest my white haires are blossomes for the graue: and thy fresh colours, fruite for time and Fortune; so that it behoueth me to thinke how to die, and for thee, to care how to liue. My Crowne I must leaue by death, and thou enioy my Kingdome by succession. Wherein I hope thy vertue and prowesse shall be such, as though my Subiects want my person, yet they shall see in thee my perfection. That

nothing eyther may fayle to satisfie thy minde, or encrease thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to see thée well married before I die, and thou become old.

Dorastus (who from his infancy, delighted rather to die with Mars in the field, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber) fearing to displease his Father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reuerent answere.

SIR, there is no greater bond then dutie, nor no stricter Law then nature: disobedience in youth, is often galled with despight in age. The commaund of the Father ought to be a constraint to the childe: so, Parents wils are lawes, so they passe not all lawes. May it please your Grace therefore, to appoint whom I shall loue: Rather then by deniall I should be appeached of disobedience, I rest content to loue: though it be the onely thing I hate.

Egistus hearing his Sonne to flie farre from the marke, began to be somewhat cholericke, and therefore made him this hastie answere.

WHat Dorastus, canst thou not loue? Commeth this cynicall passion of proud desires, or peeuish frowardnesse? What, dost thou thinke thy selfe too good for all, or none good enough for thee? I tell thée Dorastus, there is nothing swéeter then youth: nor swifter decreasing, while it is increasing. Time past with folly may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marry in age, thy wiues fresh colours will breede in thee dead thoughts and suspition, and thy white hayres her loathsomenesse and sorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with Kingdomes, or Treasures; but with youthfull conceites, and swéete amours. Vulcan was allotted to shake the tree, but Mars allowed to reape the fruit. Wælde Dorastus to thy Fathers perswasions, which may preuent thy perils. I haue chosen thee a wife, faire by nature, royall by birth, by vertues famous, learned by education, and rich by possessions: so that it is hard to iudge whether her bounty, or Fortune; her beauty, or vertue, be of greater force: I meane (Dorastus) Euphania, daughter and heyre to the King of Denmarke.

Egistus

EGistus pausing here a while, loking when his Sonne should make him answere: and seeing that he stode still, as one in a trance, he shooke him vp thus sharply.

WEll Dorastus take héde, the Tree Alpya wasteth not with fire, but withereth with dewe: that which loue nourisheth not, perisheth with hate. If thou like Euphania thou bréedest my content, and in louing her thou shalt haue my loue: otherwise: and with that he flung from his Sonne in a rage, leauing him a sorrowfull man, in that he had by deniall displeased his father; and halfe angrie with himselfe, that he could not yéeld to that passion, whereto both reason and his Father perswaded him. But sée how Fortune is plumed with times Feathers, and how she can minister strange causes to bréed strange effects.

It happened not long after this, that there was a méeting of all the Farmers daughters in Sycilia, whither Fawnia was also bidden as the Mistresse of the Feast: who hauing attired her selfe in her best garments, went amongst the rest of her companions to a merry meeting: there spending the day in such homely pastime as shepheards vse. As the euening grew on and their sports ceased, each taking their leaue of other, Fawnia desiring one of her companions to beare her company, went home by the flocke, to see if they were well folded. And as they returned, it fortuned that Dorastus (who all that day had béene hawking and killed store of game) incountred by the way these two maids: and casting his eye suddenly on Fawnia, he was halfe afraid, fearing that with Acteon he had séene Diana: for he thought such exquisite perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he stood in a maze, one of his Pages told him, that the Maide with the garland on her head, was Fawnia the faire shepheard, whose beauty was so much talked of in the Court. Dorastus, desirous to see if nature had adorned her minde with any inward qualities, as she had decked her bodie with outward shape, began to question with her whose daughter she was, of what age, and how she had béene trained vp: who answered him with such modest reuerence & sharpnesse of wit, that Dorastus thought her outward beauty was but a

counterfeit to darken her inward qualities: wondering how so courtly behauiour could be found in so simple a Cottage; and cursing Fortune, that had shadowed wit and beauty with such hard Fortune: And thus he held her a long time with chatte. Beauty seeing him at discouert: thought not to loose the vantage, but stroke him so deeply with an inuenomed shaft, as he wholely lost his liberty, and became a slaue to Loue, which before contemned Loue, glad now to gaze on a poore Shepheard, who before refused the offer of a rich Princesse. For the perfection of Fawnia had so fired his fancy, as he felt his minde greatly changed, and his affections altered; cursing loue that had wrought such a change, and blaming the baseneſſe of his minde that would make such a choyce. But thinking these were but passionate toyes, that might be thrust out at pleasure: to auoid the Syren that enchanted him, he put spurres to his horse, and bad this fayre shepheard farewell.

Fawnia (who all this while had marked the Princely gesture of Dorastus) seeing his face so well featured, and each lim so perfectly framed, began greatly to praise his perfection, commending him so long, till she found her selfe faultie: and perceiued that if she waded but a little further, she might slip ouer the shoes. She therefore seeking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home, and fayning her selfe not well at ease, got her to bed: where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, she could take no rest. For if she had waked, she began to call to minde his beautie: and thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, she then dreamed of his perfection. Pestered with these vnacquainted passions, she passed the night as she could, in short slumbers.

Dorastus (who all this while rode with a flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the sweete sauour of Fawnia, but rested so bewitched with her wit and beautie, as he could take no rest. He felt fancy to giue the assault, and his wounded minde readie to yeelde as vanquished; yet he began with diuers considerations to suppresse his franticke affection, calling to minde, that Fawnia was a Shepheard: one not worthy to be looked at of a Prince; much lesse to be loued of such a Potentate: thinking what a discredite it were to himselfe, and what a

griefe it would be to his Father: blaming fortune, and accuſing his own folly, that ſhould be ſo fond, as but once to caſt a glance at ſuch a country ſlut. And as thus he was raging againſt himſelfe, Loue (fearing, if ſhe dallied long, to loſe her Champion) ſtept more nigh, and gaue him ſuch a freſh wound, as it pierſt him at the heart, that he was faine to yeld maugre his face, and to forſake the company, and get him to his Chamber, where being ſolemnly ſet, he burſt into theſe paſſionate termes.

AH Doraſtus art thou alone? Nonot alone, while thou art tyred with theſe vnacquainted paſſions. Yeelde to fancie thou canſt not by thy Fathers counſell: but in a frenzie thou art, by iuſt deſtinies. Thy Father were content, if thou couldſt loue: and thou therefore diſcontent, becauſe thou doeſt loue. O diuine Loue, feared of men, becauſe honoured of the Gods: not to be ſuppreſſed by wiſedome, becauſe not to be comprehended by reaſon: without law, and therefore aboue law.

How now Doraſtus? why doeſt thou blaze that with praiſes which thou haſt cauſe to blaſpheme with curſes? Yet why ſhould they curſe loue, which are vrlone?

Bluſh Doraſtus at thy Fortune, thy choyſe, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be vttered without ſhame, nor thy affections without diſcredit. Ah Fawnia, ſweet Fawnia, thy beauty Fawnia.

Shameſt not thou Doraſtus, to name one vnfit for thy birth, thy dignities, thy Kingdomes? Die Doraſtus, Doraſtus die. Better hadſt thou periſh with high deſires, then liue in baſe thoughts. Yea but beautie muſt be obeyed, becauſe it is beauty: yet framed of the Gods to feede the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah, but he that ſtriueth againſt Loue, ſweateth with them of Scyrum againſt the winde, and with the Cockatrice pecketh againſt the Steele. I will therefore obey, becauſe I muſt obey. Fawnia, yea Fawnia ſhall be my Fortune, in ſpight of Fortune. The Gods aboue diſdaine not to loue women beneath. Phœbus liked Daphne; Iupiter, Io: and why not I then Fawnia? one ſomething inferiour to theſe in birth: but farre ſuperiour to them in beauty: borne to be a Shepheard, but worthy to be a Goddeſſe.

Ah Dorastus, wilt thou so forget thy selfe as to suffer affection to suppresse wisedome, and loue to violate thine honour? How sowre will thy choyse be to thy Father, sorrowfull to thy Subiects, to thy friends a griefe, most gladsome to thy foes? Subdue then thy affection, and cease to loue her whom thou couldest not loue, vnlesse blinded with too much loue. Tush, I talke to the winde, and in seeking to preuent the causes, I further the effects. I will yet praise Fawnia, honour, yea and loue Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counsell. Doe Dorastus, thou canst not repent: and with that, his Page came into the chamber: whereupon he ceased from complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which Fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, so poore Fawnia was diuersly perplexed. For the next morning getting vp very earely, she went to her sheepe, thinking with hard labours to passe away her new conceiued amours, beginning very busily to driue them to the field, and then to shift the folds. At last (wearied with toyle) she sate her downe, where (poore soule) she was more tyred with fond affections. For loue began to assault her: insomuch, that as she sate vpon the side of a hill, she began to accuse her owne folly in these termes.

I Nfortunate Fawnia, and therefore infortunate because Fawnia, thy shepheards hooke sheweth thy poore estate, thy proud desires an aspiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No bastard Hawke must soare so high as the Hobby, no Fowle gaze against the Sunne, but the Eagle: actions wrought against nature, reape despight: and thoughts aboue Fortune, disdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a shepheard, Daughter to poore Porrus: if thou rest content with this, thou art like to stand: if thou climbe, thou art like to fall. The hearbe Anita growing higher then fiue inches, becommeth a weede. Nilus flowing more then twelue Cubits, procureth a dearth. Daring affections that passe measure, are cut short by time or Fortune. Suppresse then Fawnia, those thoughts which thou mayest shame to expresse. But ah Fawnia, loue is a Lord: who will commaund by power, and constraine by force.

Doraſtus, ah Doraſtus is the man I loue: the woꝛſe is thy hap, and the leſſe cauſe haſt thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at Flies? will Cedars ſtoupe at bꝛambles? oꝛ mighty Pꝛinces loke at ſuch homely Truls? No, no: thinke this. Doraſtus diſdaine is greater then thy deſire. He is a Pꝛince, reſpecting his honour: thou a beggers bꝛat foꝛgetting thy calling. Ceaſe then not onely to ſay, but to thinke to loue Doraſtus: and diſſemble thy loue Fawnia. Foꝛ better it were to die with griefe, than to liue with ſhame. Yet in deſpight of loue I will ſigh, to ſee if I can ſigh out loue. Fawnia, ſomewhat appeaſing her griefes with theſe pithy perſwaſions, began after her wonted manner to walke about her ſheepe, and to keepe them from ſtraying into the coꝛne: ſuppꝛeſſing her affection with the due conſideration of her baſe eſtate, and with the impoſſibilities of her loue: thinking it were frenſie (not fancie) to couet that which the very deſtinies denie her to obtaine.

But Doraſtus was moꝛe impatient in his paſſions. Foꝛ Loue ſo fiercely aſſayled him, that neither company, noꝛ Muſicke could mitigate his Maꝛtyꝛdome: but did rather farre the moꝛe increaſe his maladie. Shame would not let him craue counſell in this caſe: noꝛ feare of his Fathers diſpleaſure, reueile it to any ſecrete friend: but he was faine to make a Secretarie of himſelfe, and to participate his thoughts with his owne troubled minde. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull ſuſpence, at laſt ſtealing ſecretly from the Court, without eyther men oꝛ Page, he went to ſee if he could eſpie Fawnia walking abꝛoad in the field. But, as one hauing a great deale moꝛe ſkill to retriue the Partridge with his Spaniels, then to hunt after ſuch a ſtrange pꝛey, he ſought, but was ſittle the better. Which croſſe lucke dꝛaue him into a great choler, that he began both to accuſe Loue and Foꝛtune. But as as he was ready to retire, he ſaw Fawnia ſitting all alone vnder the ſide of an hil, making a Garland of ſuch homely flowers as the fieldes did affooꝛd. This ſight ſo reuiued his ſpirits, that he dꝛew nigh, with moꝛe iudgement to make a view of her ſinguler perfection: which he found to be ſuch, as in that Country attire ſhe ſtayned all the Courtly Dames of Sycilia. While thus he ſtood gazing with pearcing lokes on her ſurpaſſing Beautie,

Fawnia cast her eye aside, and espied Dorastus. Which sodaine sight made the poore girle to blush, and to die her Christal cheeks with the vermilion red: which gaue her such a grace, as she seemed farre more beautifull; and with that she rose vp, saluting the Prince with such modest courtesies, as she wondered how a countrey maide could afford such courtly behauiour. Dorastus repaying her courtesie with a smiling countenance, began to parle with her on this manner.

FAire maide (quoth he) eyther your want is great, or a shepheards life very sweete, that your delight is in such countrey labours. I cannot conceiue what pleasure you should take, vnlesse you meane to imitate the Nimphes, being your selfe so like a Nimph. To put me out of this doubt, shew me what is to be commended in a Shepheards life, and what pleasures you haue to counteruaile these drudging labours. Fawnia, with blushing face, made him this answere.

SIr, what richer state then content? or what sweeter life then quiet? We shepheards are not borne to honour, nor beholding vnto beauty: the lesse cares we haue to feare fame or fortune. We count our attire braue enough, if warme enough: and our food dainty, if to suffice nature: our greatest enemy is the wolfe: our onely care, in safe keeping our flocke, in steed of courtly dities, we spend the daies with country songs: our amorous conceits are homely thoughts: delighting as much to talke of Pan and his country prankes, as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toyle is in shifting the foldes, and looking to the Lambes, easie labours: oft sitting and telling tales; homely pleasures: our greatest wealth, not to couet, our honor, not to climbe: our quiet, not to care. Enuie looketh not so low as Shepheards: Shepheards gaze not so high as ambition: we are rich, in that we are poore with content: and proud onely in this, that we haue no cause to be proud.

THis witty answere of Fawnia so inflamed Dorastus fancy, as he commended himselfe for making so good a choyce: thinking, if her birth were answerable to her wit and beau,

tie, that ſhe were a fit mate for the moſt famous Prince in the world. He therefore began to ſift her more narrowly on this manner,

FAwnia, I ſée thou art content with Countrie labours, becauſe thou knoweſt not Courtly pleaſures: I commend thy wit, and pittie thy want. But wilt thou leaue thy Fathers Cottage, and ſerue a Courtly miſtreſſe?

Sir (quoth ſhe) beggers ought not to ſtriue againſt Fortune, nor to gaze againſt honour; leaſt eyther their fall be greater, or they become blinde. I am borne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court: my nature vnfit for their nature: better liue in meane degrée, then liue in high diſdaine.

Well ſaid Fawnia (quoth Doraſtus) I geſſe at thy thoughts, thou art in loue with ſome Country Shepheard.

No ſir (quoth ſhe) ſhepheards cannot loue, that are ſo ſimple: and maids may not loue that are ſo young.

May therefore (quoth Doraſtus) maides muſt loue becauſe they are young: for Cupid is a Childe, and Venus, though olde is painted with freſh cours.

I grant (ſaid ſhe) age may be painted with new ſhadowes, and youth may haue imperfect affections: but, what art concealeth in one, ignorance reuealeth in the other. Doraſtus ſéeing Fawnia held him ſo hard, thought it was vaine ſo long to beate about the buſh: therefore he thought to haue giuen her a freſh charge: but he was ſo preuented by certaine of his men: who miſſing their Maſter, came poſting to ſéeke him, ſéeing that he was gone forth all alone; yet before they drew ſo nigh that they might heare their talke, he vſed theſe ſpeeches.

Why Fawnia, perhaps I loue thee, and then thou muſt needs yeelde: for thou knoweſt I can commaund and conſtraine. Truth ſir (quoth ſhe) but not to loue, for conſtrained loue is force, not loue: and know this ſir, mine honeſty is ſuch, as I had rather die, then be a Concubine euen vnto a King: and my birth is ſo baſe, as I am vnfit to be a wife vnto a poore Farmer. Why then (quoth he) thou canſt not loue Doraſtus. Yes ſaid Fawnia, when Doraſtus becomes a Shepheard, and with that the preſence of his men broke off their parle, ſo that

he went with them to the Pallace, and left Fawnia ſitting ſtill on the hill ſide: who, ſéeing that the night drew on, ſhifted her foldes, and buſied her ſelfe about other worke, to driue away ſuch fond fancies as began to trouble her braine. But all this could not preuaile, for the beauty of Doraſtus had made ſuch a deepe impreſſion in her heart, as it could not be worne out without cracking: ſo that ſhe was faine to blame her owne folly, in this wiſe.

AH Fawnia, why doeſt thou gaze againſt the Sunne, or catch at the winde? Starres are to be loked at with the eye, not reached at with the hand: thoughts are to be meaſured by Fortunes, not by deſires; falles come not by ſitting low, but by climing too high. What then, ſhall all feare to fall, becauſe ſome hap to fall? No, lucke commeth by lot, and Fortune windeth thoſe thréeds which the deſtinies ſpin. Thou art fauoured Fawnia of a Prince, and yet thou art ſo fond to reiect deſired fauours: thou haſt deniall at thy tongues end, and deſire at thy hearts bottome: a womans fault, to ſpurne at that with her foote which ſhe gréedily catcheth at with her hand: thou loueſt Doraſtus, Fawnia; and yet ſéemeſt to lowre. Take héede, if he retire, thou wilt repent, for vnleſſe he loue, thou canſt but die. Die then Fawnia: for Doraſtus doth but ieſt. The Lyon neuer preyeth on the Mouſe: nor doe Faulcons ſteupe to dead ſtales. Sit downe then in this ſorrow; ceaſe to loue, and content thy ſelfe, that Doraſtus will vouchſafe for to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancie Fawnia. Heigh ho: Ah fole, it were séemelier for thée to whiſtle as a Shepheard, then to ſigh as a Louer; and with that ſhe ceaſed from theſe perplexed paſſions: folding her ſhéepe, and hying home to her poore Cottage. But ſuch was the vnconſtant ſorrow of Doraſtus, to thinke on the wit and beauty of Fawnia: and to ſée how fond he was, being a Prince: and how forward ſhe was, being a begger: that he began to loſe his wonted Appetite, to loke pale and wan: in ſtéd of mirth, to féed on melancholy: for Courtly daunces, to vſe cold dumpes. Inſomuch, that not onely his owne men, but his Father, and all the Court began to maruaile at his ſodaine change, thinking that ſome lingring ſickneſſe had brought

him

him into this ſtate. Wherefore he cauſed Phiſitions to come, But Doraſtus neither would let them miniſter, nor ſo much as ſuffer them to ſée his vrine: but remained ſtill ſo oppreſſed with theſe paſſions, as he feared in himſelfe a further inconuenience. His honour wiſhed him to ceaſe from ſuch folly: but loue forced him to follow fancie: yea, and in deſpight of honour Loue wonne the conqueſt, ſo that his hot deſires cauſed him to finde new deuices. For he preſently made himſelfe a Shepheards coate, that he might go vnknowne, and with leſſe ſuſpition to prattle with Fawnia: and conueyed it ſecretly into a thicke groue hard adioyning to the Pallace: whither, finding fit time and opportunity, he went all alone, and putting off his Princely apparrell, got on thoſe ſhepheards robes: and taking a great hooke in his hand (which he alſo had gotten) he went very anciently to find out the miſtreſſe of his affection. But as he went by the way, ſéeing himſelfe clad in ſuch vnſéemely ragges, he began to ſmile at his owne folly, and to reprooue his fondneſſe in theſe termes.

VVEll ſaid Doraſtus, thou kéepeſt a good decorum: baſe deſires and homely attires: thy thoughts are fit for none but a Shepheard, and thy apparrell ſuch as onely becomes a Shepheard. A ſtrange change: from a Prince to a Peaſant, What, is it thy wretched Fortune, or thy wilfull folly? Is it thy curſed deſtinies, or thy croked deſires, that appointeth thée this penance? Ah Doraſtus thou canſt but loue, and vnleſſe thou loue, thou art like to periſh for loue. Yet, fond foole chooſe flowers, not wéeds; Diamonds, not Peables: Ladies, which may honour thée: not ſhepheards which may diſgrace thee. Venus is painted in ſilkes, not in ragges: and Cupid treadeth on diſdaine, when he reacheth at dignitie. And yet Doraſtus, ſhame not at thy ſhepheards wéede: the heauenly Gods haue ſometime earthly thoughts: Neptune became a Ramme, Iupiter a Bull, Apollo a Shepheard, they Gods, and yet in loue: and thou a man appointed to loue.

Deuiſing thus with himſelfe, he drew nigh to the place where Fawnia was képing her ſhéepe: who caſting her eye aſide, and ſéeing ſuch a manerly Shepheard, perfectly limmes,

and comming with ſo good a pace, ſhe began halfe to forget Doraſtus, and to fauour this pretty ſhepheard, whom ſhe thought ſhe might both loue and obtaine. But as ſhe was in theſe thoughts, ſhe perceiued then, it was the young Prince Doraſtus: wherefore ſhe roſe vp, and reuerently ſaluted him. Doraſtus taking her by the hand, repaied her courteſie with a ſweet kiſſe, & praying her to ſit downe by him, he began thus to lay the battery.

IF thou maruaile Fawnia at my ſtrange attire, thou wouldeſt more muſe at mine vnaccuſtomed thoughts: the one diſgraceth but my outward ſhape, the other diſturbeth my inward ſenſes: I loue Fawnia, and therefore what Loue liketh, I cannot miſlike. Fawnia thou haſt promiſed to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no leſſe: I haue fulfilled thy requeſt, and now thou canſt not but grant my deſire. Thou wert content to loue Doraſtus when he ceaſt to be a Prince, and became a ſhepheard: and ſée, I haue made a change, and therefore not to miſſe of my choice.

TRuth, quoth Fawnia: but all that weare Coules are not Monkes. Painted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles: Zeuxis Grapes were like Grapes, yet ſhadowes: rich cloathing make not Princes; nor homely attire beggers: Shepheards are not called ſhepheards, becauſe they weare hookes and bagges, but they are borne poore, and liue to kéepe ſhéepe: ſo this attire hath not made Doraſtus a ſhepheard but to ſéeme like a ſhepheard.

VVEll Fawnia, anſwered Doraſtus, were I a ſhepheard, I could not but like thée; being a Prince I am forſt to loue thée: Take héede Fawnia, be not proud of Beauties painting: for it is a flower that fadeth in the bloſſome. Thoſe which diſdaine in youth, are deſpiſed in age. Beauties ſhadowes are trickt vp with times colours: Which being ſet to drie in the Sunne are ſtained with the Sunne, ſcarce pleaſing the ſight, yet they begin not to be worth the ſight: not much vnlike the herbe Ephimeron, which flouriſheth in the morning, and is withered before the Sunne ſetting. If my deſire were

againſt

againſt law, thou mightſt iuſtly denie me by reaſon: but I loue thée Fawnia: not to miſuſe thee as a Concubine, but to vſe thée as my wife; I can promiſe no more, and meane to performe no leſſe.

Fawnia hearing this ſolemne proteſtation of Doraſtus, could no longer withſtand the aſſault, but yéelded vp the Fort, in theſe friendly termes.

AH Doraſtus, I ſhame to expreſſe that thou forceſt me with thy ſugred ſpéech to confeſſe: my baſe birth cauſeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggers thoughts ought not to reach ſo farre as Kings, and yet my deſires reach as high as Princes. I dare not ſay Doraſtus I loue thee, becauſe I am a Shepheard: but the Gods know I haue honoured Doraſtus, (pardon if I ſay amiſſe) yea and loued Doraſtus with ſuch dutifull affection, as Fawnia can performe, or Doraſtus deſire: I yéeld not, ouercome with prayers, but with Loue: reſting Doraſtus hand-maid, readie to obey his will, if no preiudice at all to his honour, nor my credite.

DOraſtus hearing this friendly concluſion of Fawnia embraced her in his armes, ſwearing that neyther diſtance, time, nor aduerſe Fortune ſhould diminiſh his affection: but that in deſpight of the deſtinies he would remaine ioyfull vnto death. Hauing thus plight their troth each to other, ſéeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egiſtus content would neuer be granted to ſo meane a match, Doraſtus determined aſſoone as time and opportunitie would giue him leaue, to prouide a great maſſe of money, and many rich and coſtly Iewels, for the eaſier carriage: and then to tranſport themſelues and their Treaſure into Italy, where they ſhould leade a contented life, vntill ſuch time as eyther he could be reconciled to his Father, or elſe by ſucceſſion come to the Kingdome. This deuice was greatly prayſed of Fawnia: for ſhe feared, if the King his father ſhould but heare of the contract, that his fury would be ſuch, as no leſſe then death ſhould ſtand for payment. She therefore told him, that delay bred danger: that many miſhaps did fall out betweene the

cup and lip: and that to auoide anger, it were best with as much spéd as might be, to passe out of Sycilia, least Fortune might preuent their patience with some new despight. Doraſtus, whom loue pricked forward with desire, promised to dispatch his affaires with as great haſt, as eyther time or opportunity would giue him leaue: and so resting vpon this point, after many embracings and swéete kisses, they departed. Doraſtus, hauing taken his leaue of his best beloued Fawnia, went to the groue where he had his rich apparrell, and there vncasing himselfe as secretly as might be, hiding vp his Shepheards attire, till occasion should serue againe to vse it: he went to the Pallace, shewing by his merry countenance, that eyther the state of his body was amended, or the cause of his minde greatly redressed. Fawnia poore soule was no lesse ioyfull, that being a Shepheard, Fortune had fauoured her so, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince: hoping in time to be aduanced from the daughter of a poore Farmer, to be a wife to a rich King. So that she thought euery houre a yeare, till by their departure they might preuent danger: not ceasing still to goe euery day to her sheepe: not so much for the care of the flocke, as for the desire she had to sée her loue and Lord Doraſtus: who oftentimes when opportunity would serue, repaired thither to féed his fancy with his swéete content of Fawniaes presence. And although he neuer went to visit her, but in these Shepheards ragges, yet his oft repaire made him not onely suspected, but knowne to diuers of their neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him secretly of the matter, wishing him to keepe his daughter at home, least she went so oft to the field, that she brought him home a young sonne. For they feared that Fawnia being so beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was stricken into a dumpe at these newes, so that thanking his neighbours for their good will, he hies him home to his wife: and calling her aside, wringing his hands, and shedding forth teares, he brake the matter to her in these termes.

I Am afraid wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her selfe so fine, that she will buy repentance too deare. I feare

the Vulture: it is more honourable for Pandoſto to die by concealing Loue, then to enioy ſuch vnlatte Loue. Doth Pandoſto then loue? Yea. Whome? A maide vnknowne, yea and perhaps immodeſt, straggled out of her owne Countrie: beautifull, but not therefore chaſt: comely in body, but perhappes crooked in minde. Ceaſe then Pandoſto to looke at Fawnia, much leſſe to loue her: bee not ouertaken with a womans beautie, whoſe eyes are formed by art to enamour, whoſe heart is framed by nature to enchaunt: whoſe falſe teares know their true times, and whoſe ſweete words pierce deeper then sharpe ſwordes. Here ceaſt Pandoſto from his talke, but not from his loue: for although hee ſought by reaſon and wiſdom, to ſuppreſſe this franticke affection: yet hee could take no reſt, the beautie of Fawnia had made ſuch a deepe impreſſion in his heart. But on a day walking abroade into a Parke which was hard adioyning to his houſe, hee ſent by one of his ſeruaunts for Fawnia, vnto whome hee vttered theſe words.

FAwnia, I commend thy beautie and wit, and now pittie thy diſtreſſe and want: but if thou wilt forſake Syr Meleagrus (whoſe pouertie, though a knight, is not able to maintaine an eſtate anſwerable to thy beauty) and yeeld thy conſent to Pandoſto, I will both increaſe thee with dignities and riches. No Sir, anſwered Fawnia, Meleagrus is a knight that hath wonne mee by Loue, & none but hee ſhall weare me: his ſiniſter miſchaunce ſhall not diminiſh my affection, but rather increaſe my good will: thinke not, though your Grace hath impriſoned him without cauſe, that feare will make mee yeeld my conſent: I had rather bee Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plenty, and bee Pandoſtoes Concubine. Pandoſto hearing the aſſured anſwere of Fawnia [illegible] notwithſtanding, proſecute his ſuite [illegible]
faire words and great [illegible]
tie: ſwearing th[illegible]
ſhould not on[illegible]
mongſt his
her minde
grus: wh[illegible]

conſider more of the demaund: Fawnia beeing alone by her ſelfe began to fall into theſe ſolitary meditations.

AH infortunate Fawnia, thou ſeeſt, to deſire aboue Fortune, is to ſtriue aboue Gods and Fortune. Who gazeth at the Sunne, weakeneth his ſight: they which ſtare at the Skie, fall oft into déepe pitts: haddeſt thou reſted content to haue béene a Shepheard, thou néedeſt not to haue feared miſchaunce: better had it béene for thee, by ſitting low, to haue had quiet, then by climing high, to haue fallen into miſery. But alas, I feare not mine owne daunger, but Doraſtus diſpleaſure. Ah ſweete Doraſtus, thou art a Prince, but now a Priſoner, by too much loue, procuring thine owne loſſe: haddeſt thou not Loued Fawnia, thou haddeſt beene fortunate. Shall I then be falſe to him that hath forſaken Kingdomes for my cauſe? No, would my death might deliuer him, ſo mine honour might bée preſerued. With that, fetching a déepe ſigh, ſhe ceaſed from her complaints, and went againe to the Palace, enioying a liberty without content, and proffred pleaſure with ſmall ioy. But poore Doraſtus lay all this while in cloſe priſon, béeing pinched with a hard reſtraynt, and payned with the burthen of cold and heauy Irons, ſorrowing ſometimes that his fond affection had procured him this miſhap, that by the diſobedience of his Parents, hée had wrought his owne deſpight: another while curſing the Gods and Fortune, that they would croſſe him with ſiniſter chaunce, vttring at laſt his paſſions with theſe words.

Ah vnfortunate wretch borne to miſhap, now thy folly hath his deſert: art thou not worthy for thy baſe minde, to haue bad Fortune? Could the deſtinies fauour thee, which haſt forgot thine honour and dignity? will not the Gods plague him with deſpight that vnmanneth his father with diſobedience? Oh Gods, [illegible] plague mée, but fauour poore [illegible] of wretched Pan- [illegible] then welcome [illegible], ſorrowed [illegible] patience. [illegible] of vnlaw- [illegible] ſmitten [illegible] with

with his new loue, ſo that his Nobles and Subiects marualled greatly at his ſuddaine alteration, not beeing able to coniecture the cauſe of this his continued care. Pandoſto thinking euery houre a yeare, till hee had talked once againe with Fawnia, ſent for her ſecretly into his Chamber: whyther Fawnia though vnwillingly comming, Pandoſto entertained her very courteouſly, vſing theſe familiar ſpeeches, which Fawnia anſwered as ſhortly in this wiſe.

Pandoſto

Fawnia, are you become leſſe wilfull and more wiſe, to preferre the loue of a King before the liking of a poore Knight? I thinke ere this you thinke it is better to bee fauoured of a King, then of a Subiect.

Fawnia

Pandoſto, the body is ſubiect to victories, but the minde not to bee ſubdued with Conqueſt: honeſty is to bee preferred before honour, and a dram of faith weigheth downe a Tunne of gold. I haue promiſed Meleagrus to loue, and will performe no leſſe.

Pandoſto

Fawnia, I know thou art not ſo vnwiſe in thy choyce, as to refuſe the offer of a King, nor ſo vngratefull as to diſpiſe a good turne: thou art now in that place where I may commaund, and yet thou ſeeſt I intreate: my power is ſuch, that I may compell by force, and yet I ſue by prayers. Yeeld Fawnia thy loue to him which burneth in thy loue, Meleagrus ſhall bee ſet free, thy Country men diſcharged, and thou both loued and honoured.

Fawnia

I ſee Pandoſto, where luſt ruleth it is a miſerable thing to bee a virgin: but know this, that I will alwaies preferre fame before life, and rather chooſe death then diſhonour.

Pandoſto ſeeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate courage to loue Meleagrus; and a reſolution without feare to hate him, fleeing away from her in a rage, beſware, that if in ſhort time ſhe would not bee won by reaſon, he would forget all courteſie and compell her to graunt by rigour. But theſe threatning wordes no whit diſmayed Fawnia: but that ſhee ſtill both

despited and despised Pandosto. While thus these two louers stroue, the one to winne loue, the other to liue in hate: Egistus heard certaine newes by Merchants of Bohemia, that his sonne Doraſtus was imprisoned by Pandosto: which made him feare greatly, that his Sonne should bee but hardly intreated: yet considering that Bellaria and hée were cleared by the Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith Pandosto had vniustly charged them: hée thought best to send with all spéede to Pandosto, that hée should set free his Sonne Doraſtus, and put to death Fawnia and her Father Porrus. Finding this, by the aduice of counsell, the spédiest remedy to release his Sonne, he caused presently two of his ships to be rigged, and throughly furnished with prouision of men and victuals, and sent diuers of his Nobles, Embaſſadours into Bohemia: who willing to obay the King, and receiue their young Prince, made no delayes, for feare of daunger, but with as much spéede as might bée sayled towards Bohemia; the winde and Seas fauoured them greatly, which made them hope of some good happe; for within thrée dayes they were landed: which Pandosto no sooner heard of their ariuall, but hée in person went to méete them, intreating them with such sumptuous and familiar courtesie, that they might well perceiue how sorry hée was for the former iniuries hée had offered to their King, and how willing (if it might bee) to make amends. As Pandosto made reporte to them, how one Meleagrus a Knight of Trapolonia was lately ariued with a Ladie called Fawnia in his Land, comming very suspitiously, accompanied onely with one Seruaunt and an olde Shéepheard: the Embaſſadours perceiued by the halfe, what the whole tale meant, and began to coniecture that it was Doraſtus, who for feare to bee knowne, had changed his name. But dissembling the matter, they shortly arriued at the Court, where after they had bin very solemnly and sumptuously feaſted, the Noble men of Sycilia being gathered together, they made reporte of their Embaſſage; where they certified Pandosto that Meleagrus was Sonne and Heire to the King Egistus, and that his name was Doraſtus: and how contrarie to the Kings minde he had priuily conueyed away that Fawnia, intending to marry her, béeing but Daughter to that poore shep-

heard

heard Porrus. Whereupon the Kings requeſt was, that Capnio, Fawnia and Porrus might be murthered and put to Death, and that his Sonne Doraſtus might bee ſent home in ſafetie. Pandoſto hauing attentiuely and with greate marualle heard their Embaſſage, willing to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus, and to ſhew him how greatly he eſteemed his fauor: although Loue and fancy forbad him to hurt Fawnia, yet in deſpite of Loue hee determined to execute Egiſtus will without mercy, and therfore hee preſently ſent for Doraſtus out of prylon: who maruailing at his vnlooked for curteſie, found at his comming to the Kings preſence, that which hee leaſt doubted of, his Fathers Embaſſadors: who no ſooner ſaw him, but with great reuerence they honoured him: and Pandoſto embracing Doraſtus, ſet him by him very louingly in a Chaire of eſtate. Doraſtus aſhamed that his folly was bewrayed, ſate a long time as one in a muze, till Pandoſto told him the ſumme of his Fathers Embaſſage: which hee had no ſooner heard, but hée was touched at the quick for the cruell ſentence that was pronounced againſt Fawnia: but neither could his ſorrow nor perſwaſions preuaile: for Pandoſto commaunded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio ſhould bee brought to his preſence: who were no ſooner come, but Pandoſto, hauing his former loue turned into diſdainefull hate, began to rage againſt Fawnia in theſe tearmes.

THou diſdainefull vaſſall, thou curriſh kite, aſſigned by the deſtinies to baſe fortune, and yet with an aſpiring minde gazing after honour: how durſt thou preſume being a beggar, to match with a Prince? By thy alluring lookes to enchaunt the Sonne of a King, to leaue his owne country to fulfill thy diſordinate luſts? O diſpitefull minde! a proud heart in a beggar, is not vnlike a great fire in a ſmall Cottage, which warmeth not the houſe, but burneth it: aſſure thy ſelfe thou ſhalt die: and thou old doating fole, whoſe folly hath beene ſuch, as to ſuffer thy daughter to reach aboue thy Fortune: looke for no other méede, but the like puniſhment. But Capnio, thou wretch haſt betrayed the King, and haſt conſented to the vnlawfull luſt of thy Lord and Maſter, I know not how iuſtly I may plague thee: Death is too eaſie a puniſhment for thy falſhode, and to

liue (if not in extreme miſery) were not to ſhew thee equitie. I therefore award that thou ſhalt haue thine eyes put out, and continually till thou dieſt, grinde in a Mill like a brute beaſt. The feare of death brought a ſorrowfull ſilence vpon Fawnia and Capnio: but Porrus ſeeing no hope of life, burſt forth into theſe ſpeeches.

PAndoſto, and yee Noble Embaſſadoures of Sycilia, ſeeing without cauſe I am condemned to dye: I am yet glad I haue opportunity to diſburthen my conſcience before my Death: I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more then is true; whereas I am accuſed that I haue beene a ſupporter of Fawnias pride, and ſhee diſdained as a vile beggar; ſo it is, that I am neither Father vnto her, nor ſhée daughter vnto me.

For it ſo happened that I being a poore Shepheard in Sycilia liuing by keeping other mens flockes: one of my ſheepe ſtraying downe to the Sea ſide, as I went toſeeke her, I ſaw a little boate driuen vppon the ſhoare, wherein I found a babe of fiue dayes old, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, hauing about the necke this Chaine: I pittying the Childe, and deſirous of the Treaſure, carried it home to my wife, who with great care nurſed it vp, and ſet it to keepe Sheepe. Here is the Chaine and Iewels, and this Fawnia is the Childe, whome I found in the boate: what ſhee is, or of what parentage I know not: but this I am aſſured, that ſhee is none of mine.

Pandoſto ſcarce would ſuffer him to tell forth his tale, but that hee required the time of the yeare, the manner of the boate, and other circumſtances: which when hee found agreeing to his count, ſuddaynely he leapt from his ſeate, and kiſſed Fawnia, wetting her tender cheekes with his Teares, and crying, my Daughter Fawnia, ah my ſweete Fawnia I am thy Father, Fawnia. This ſuddaine paſſion of the King draue them all into a maze, eſpecialy Fawnia and Doraſtus. But when the King had breathed himſelfe a while in this new Ioy, hee rehearſed before the Embaſſadours the whole matter, and how hee had intreated his wife Bellaria for Ieloufie, and this was the Childe whome he ſent to floate in the Seas.

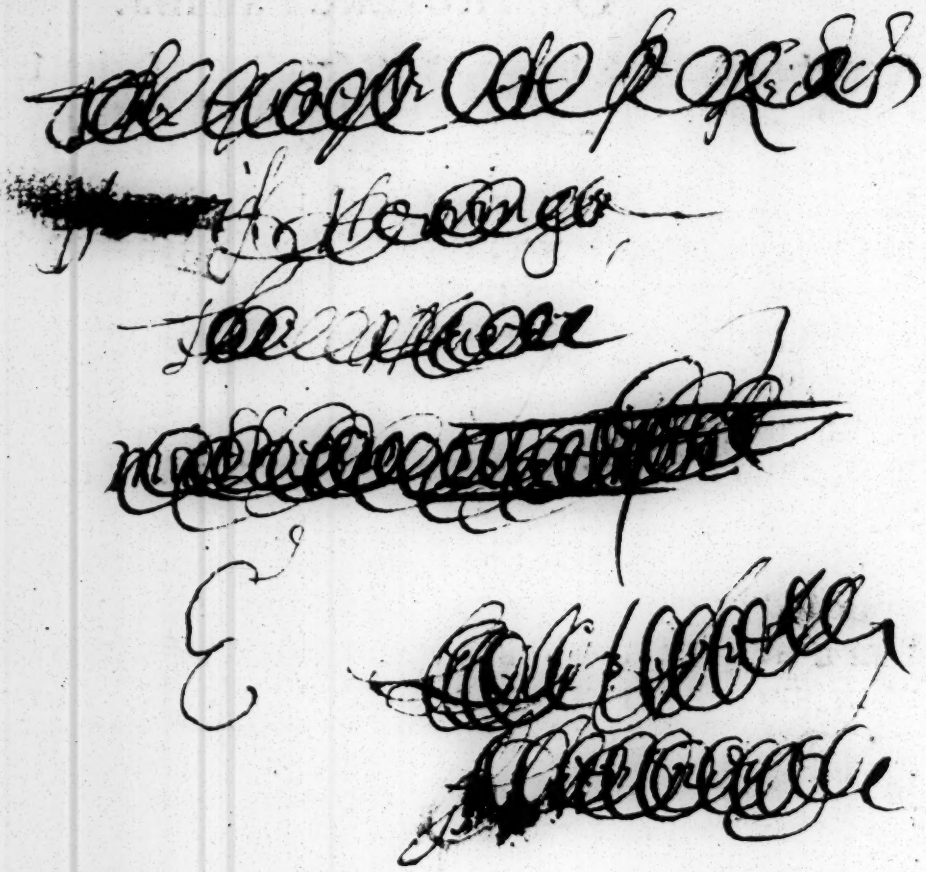
Fawnia was not more Ioyfull that ſhée had found ſuch a Fa-

ther

ther, then Doraſtus was glad hee ſhould get ſuch a wife. The Embaſſadours reioyced that their young Prince had made ſuch a choyce: that thoſe Kingdomes which through enmitie had long time beene diſſeuered, ſhould now through perpetuall amity be united and reconciled. The Citizens and Subiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his Daughter which was ſuppoſed dead, ioyfull that there was an Heyre apparant to the Kingdome) made Bonefires and ſhewes thorough out all the Citty: The Courtiers and Knights appoynted Juſtes and Turneyes, to ſign ifie their willing mindes in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eighteene dayes beeing paſt in theſe Princely ſportes, Pandoſto willing to recompence old Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a ſufficient Nauie to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Doraſtus and Fawnia and the Sycilian Embaſſadours: hée ſayled towards Sycilia, where hée was moſt princely entertayned by Egiſtus: who hearing this comicall euent, reioyced greatly at his Sonnes good happe, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two young Louers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no ſooner ended, but Pandoſto (calling to minde how firſt he betrayed his friend Egiſtus, how his Jealouſie was the cauſe of Bellariaes death, that contraris to the Law of Nature hee had luſted after his owne Daughter) moued with theſe deſperate thoughts, he fell in a melancholy fit, and to cloſe vp the Comedie with a Tragicall ſtratageme, hee ſlew himſelfe: whoſe death beeing many dayes bewayled of Fawnia, Doraſtus, and his deere friend Egiſtus: Doraſtus taking leaue of his Father, went with his wife and the dead Corps into Bohemia: where, after it was ſumptuouſly entombed, Doraſtus ended his dayes in contented quiet.

FINIS.



L223a

Greene, H.

12288a

Greene, R.